

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03000 181057Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S
REPORTED REMARKS ON GREECE

REF: ATHENS 2992

1. VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S REMARKS RELEVANT TO
GREECE AND TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS (REFTEL) HAVE
PROVOKED CRITICAL STATEMENTS BY OPPOSITION POLITICAL
LEADERS AS WELL AS WIDE PRESS PLAY APRIL 18.

2. CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES (CU/NF) LEADER MAVROS CALLED
VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT
"UNPRECEDENTED" AND "INCREDIBLE." HE ALLEGED THAT
VICE PRESIDENT SHOWED INDIFFERENCE TO PLIGHT OF 200,000
REFUGEES WHILE IGNORING TURKEY'S CONTEMPT FOR UN SECURITY
COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS RELEVANT TO CYPRUS.
MAVROS FURTHER SUGGESTED HAT VICE PRESIDENT'S "CYNICAL AND
EXPLOSIVE STATEMENT" COULD SERVE AS INCENTIVE TO TURKEY
TO PROVOKE ARMED CLASH WITH GREECE AND DESTROY CYPRUS'

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03000 181057Z

INDEPENDENCE THROUGH VIOLENCE. MAVROS DECLARED THE

VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR GOG TO DRAW NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS AND DETERMINE NOT ONLY WHO GREECE'S FRIENDS ARE BUT WHO DEFENDS JUSTICE AND MORALITY.

3. PASOK PARTY LEADER PAPANDREOU CHARACTERIZED VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS CYNICAL IN THAT GREEKS ARE ASKED TO IGNORE FATE OF CYPRIOT BROTHERS WHO WERE "MASSACRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AMERICAN PLAN WHICH WAS SIMPLY EXECUTED BY THE TURKS." COMMUNIST PARTY (INTERIOR) LEADER DRAKOPOULOS DREW ATTENTION TO "CYNICISM" OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE CYNICISM OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. HE SUGGESTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ARE INDICATIVE OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT TURKISH CHAUVINISM.

4. ALL MORNING NEWSPAPERS (APRIL 18) CARRY STORIES WITH CRITICAL REACTION TO VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. FOR EXAMPLE, KATHIMERINI AND TO VIMA GIVE PROMINENT FRONT PAGE PLAY TO ITEM WITH TO VIMA HEADLINE READING "ROCKEFELLER STATEMENTS SHOW USA HOSTILITY TOWARD GREECE." ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS AND AKROPOLIS CARRY REPORT ON BACK PAGE, AS DOES COMMUNIST (EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS WHICH HEADLINES ITS REPORT "CYNICAL STATEMENTS OF ROCKEFELLER ARE UNACCEPTABLE." AKROPOLIS ALSO CARRIED EDITORIAL, MAIN POINT OF WHICH IS THAT GREEK LEADERSHIP HAS TRIED TO PRESERVE GREEK-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WHILE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DOES WHATEVER IT CAN TO DESTROY IT.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS (INCLUDING TO VIMA AND KATHIMERINI) CARRIED REPORTS DATED IN WASHINGTON OF A STATEMENT BY RETIRED GENERAL VAN FLEET IN WHICH HE CONDEMNED TURKISH ACTIONS IN CYPRUS AND CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS AND RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES. THE GENERAL WAS ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT GREECE IS CLEARLY OF GREATER STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR US AND NATO SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN THAN TURKEY. RADIO AND TV ALSO GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO VAN FLEET'S STATEMENT.

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